<center>REMARKS</center>

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 8, 2010, and the telephonic interview conducted with the Examiner on March 16, 2011. The following remarks are supplemental to those made in the Amendment filed on February 8, 2011.

Claims 1, 3-11, 14, and 15 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 10, and 11 are in independent form. Claims 1, 10, and 11 have been amended to define aspects of what Applicant regards as his invention more clearly. Support for the claim amendments may be found, for example, at page 6, lines 3-12, of the specification.[1] Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action rejects Claims 1, 3, 6-11, 13, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0003060 (*Asoh et al.*) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0029531 (*Ohta*), and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0003933 (*Deshpande et al.*); and rejects Claims 4 and 5 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Asoh et al.* in view of *Ohta* and *Deshpande et al.*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,157,465 (*Suda et al.*). Cancellation of Claim 13 renders its rejection moot. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and submits that independent Claims 1, 10, and 11, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to a connection control method for an information processing apparatus. The method includes receiving

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[1] Any examples presented herein are intended for illustrative purposes and are not to be construed to limit the scope of the claims.

identification information identifying a plurality of wireless networks. A first wireless network identified by the identification information is automatically joined.

Notably, the method includes searching in the first wireless network for another information processing apparatus that is a wireless direct print type printer having a function of performing a predetermined processing. If the other information processing apparatus that is the wireless direct print type printer having the function of performing the predetermined processing is found, the other information processing apparatus that is the wireless direct print type printer having the function of performing the predetermined processing is requested to perform the predetermined processing. If the other information processing apparatus that is the wireless direct print type printer having the function of performing the predetermined processing is not found in the first wireless network, a second wireless network identified by the identification information is automatically joined and the second wireless network is searched for the other information processing apparatus that is the wireless direct print type printer having the function of performing the predetermined processing. If the other information processing apparatus that is the wireless direct print type printer having the function of performing the predetermined processing is found in the second wireless network, the other information processing apparatus that is the wireless direct print type printer having the function of performing the predetermined processing in the second wireless network is requested to perform the predetermined processing.

By virtue of the notable features mentioned above, a simple user operation, for example, can cause the information processing apparatus to automatically join one or more wireless networks, search for the wireless direct print type printer, and to request the predetermined processing from the wireless direct print type printer.

Asoh et al. is understood to relate to a computer that can be connected to a plurality of networks (*see* paragraph 2). In *Asoh et al.*, to use a predetermined network connection, an object may be selected from a set of objects, wherein each object includes physical and logical network configuration information (*see* paragraph 12). Nothing in *Asoh et al.* is believed to teach or suggest that searching is performed in a network to find a wireless direct print type printer, much less that a predetermined processing is requested from a wireless direct print type printer found by searching a network.

Ohta is understood to relate to a system for printing information at a conveniently located printer station that can be selected in a predetermined area (*see* paragraph 1). In *Ohta*, a plurality of printer stations can be provided in the predetermined area and can be networked to a print server that stores information, a first wireless signal can be sent from a portable device directly to the printer stations, a positional relation between the portable device and each of the printer stations can be determined based upon the first wireless signal, at least one of the printer stations can be selected based upon the positional relation, that information can be received at a selected printer station, and the information can be printed at the selected printer station (*see* paragraph 7). Nothing in *Ohta* is believed to teach or suggest that searching is performed in a network to find a wireless direct print type printer, much less that a predetermined processing is requested from a wireless direct print type printer found by searching a network.

Deshpande et al. is understood to relate to techniques and structures for providing wireless network access and services within a communication system (*see* paragraph 1). In *Deshpande et al.*, a communication device can be located within an area that is serviced by multiple wireless network access service providers (*see* paragraph 8). Nothing in *Deshpande et al.* is believed to teach or suggest that the communication device performs searching in a

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network to find a wireless direct print type printer, much less that a predetermined processing is requested from a wireless direct print type printer found by searching a network.

In summary, Applicant submits that a combination of *Asoh et al.*, *Ohta*, and *Deshpande et al.*, assuming such combination would even be permissible, would fail to teach or suggest a method that includes, among other things, "a search step of searching for another information processing apparatus that is a wireless direct print type printer having a function of performing a predetermined processing, in the first wireless network joined" and "a request step of requesting, if the other information processing apparatus that is the wireless direct print type printer having the function of performing the predetermined processing is found based on the searching in the search step, the other information processing apparatus that is the wireless direct print type printer having the function of performing the predetermined processing to perform the predetermined processing," as recited in Claim 1. Moreover, Applicant submits that such a combination would fail to teach or suggest "a changing step of automatically joining a second wireless network of the plurality of networks identified by the identification information received in the reception step, if the other information processing apparatus that is the wireless direct print type printer having the function of performing the predetermined processing in the first wireless network joined previously is not found based on the searching in the search step, searching for the other information processing apparatus that is the wireless direct print type printer having the function of performing the predetermined processing in the second wireless network, and of requesting, if the other information processing apparatus that is the wireless direct print type printer having the function of performing the predetermined processing in the second wireless network is found based on the searching, the other information processing apparatus that is the wireless direct print type printer having the function of performing the predetermined processing

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in the second wireless network to perform the predetermined processing," as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over *Asoh et al.*, *Ohta*, and *Deshpande et al.*, whether considered separately or in combination, and therefore withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 10 and 11 include features sufficiently similar to those of Claim 1 that these claims are believed to be patentable over *Asoh et al.*, *Ohta*, and *Deshpande et al.*, for the reasons discussed above. The other rejected claims in the present application depend from Claim 1 and are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim also is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and an early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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